

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating an upper airway condition of a patient, said method comprising:

selecting an implant of biocompatible fibers, said implant being sized for implantation into a soft tissue area of said patient, said biocompatible fibers being selected to stiffen said soft tissue area; and

implanting said implant into said soft tissue area to stiffen said soft tissue area for treatment of said upper airway condition.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is a braid of biocompatible fibers.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is a twisted construction of biocompatible fibers.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is a bolus of a particulate material selected for limited migration within said soft tissue area.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein said biocompatible fibers are selected to induce a fibrotic response from said soft tissue area.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said biocompatible fibers are selected to induce a fibrotic response from said soft tissue area.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said upper airway condition is sleep apnea.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said upper airway condition is snoring.

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is an elongated construction of biocompatible fibers.
10. A method according to claim 1 wherein said soft tissue area includes tissue located in a pharyngeal wall of said patient.
11. A method according to claim 1 wherein said soft tissue area includes tissue located in a nasal area of said patient.
12. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is a permanent implant.